

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00775 241600Z

46

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 COA-01

IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 AF-06 JUSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03

OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

AGR-05 CIEP-01 CEA-01 ERDA-05 OIC-02 /143 W

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R 241420Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9346

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0775

FROM OXMAN

USUN FOR AMB. STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS -CONTINENTAL SHELF

SUMMARY AT CANADIAN-CALLED MEETING OF CONTINENTAL
MARGIN STATES SUPPORT INDICATED BY FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS
PRESENT FOR REVENUE-SHARING BEYOND 200-MILES AS ONLY WAY
TO PREVENT 200-MILE LIMIT. USG REQUESTED BY BEESELY
AND OTHERS TO COME UP WITH PRECISE PERCENT FIGURES FOR REVENUE
SHARING. INDIA AND CANADA TOYING WITH PER CAPITA GNP-BASED
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PAGE 02 OSLO 00775 241600Z

DISTINCTION IN REVENUE-CONTRIBUTION FORMULA. END SUMMARY

1. AMB. BEESELY OF CANADA ORGANIZED QUICK INFORMAL MEETING OF MARGIN STATES AT END OF EVENSEN GROUP FEB. 21 IN NEW YORK. PRESENT WERE UK (WOOD), NEW ZEALAND (MANSFIELD), INDIA (SETHI), NORWAY' VINDENESS), AND US (OXMAN). BRENNAN OF AUSTRALIA DID NOT PARTICIPATE, POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE WAS ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH MOORE AT THE TIME. ARGENTINA NOT PRESENT.

2. BEESELY REPORTED SIR ROGER JACKLING'S VIEW THAT MARGIN CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHOUT REVENUE-SHARING, AND AGREED. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VOTE ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE THAT DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE SHELF BEYOND. HE SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE EXPECTS GOC TO APPROVE REVENUE SHARING IDEA FOR AREA BEYOND 200 MILES. MANSFIELD REAFFIRMED GNZ SUPPORT FOR IDEA. SETHI REFERRED TO INDIAN STATEMENT IN SEABED COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF IDEA. VINDENESS SAID GON CONSIDERING IT, AND WAS OPTIMISTIC DESPITE EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES WITH TREASURY. ALL LIMITED IDEA TO AREA BEYOND 200 MILES.

3. BEESELY SAID GOC EXPERTS ARE CONSIDERING A FIGURE OF 2 PER CENT OF WELLHEAD VALUE. WOOD SAID HMG CONSIDERING 1 PER CENT OF WELLHEAD VALUE, BUT WOULD PREFER SYSTEM BASED ON PROFIT. REASON IS PARTLY POLITICAL, SINCE ANY NUMBER USED AS A PERCENTAGE OF VALUE RATHER THAN PROFIT WOULD HAVE TO BE SMALL. WHEN ASKED HOW A PROFIT SYSTEM COULD APPLY IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HE SAID "THAT'S A PROBLEM". VINDENESS REFERRED TO EVENSEN'S CHAIRMAN'S COMPROMISE TEXT ON CONTINENTAL SHELF, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE FIGURE BUT CALLS FOR AD HOC COASTAL STATE-SEABED AUTHORITY NEGOTIATION ON AMOUNT. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT INTENT WAS AN EXPLOIT FIRST/NEGOTIATE LATER SYSTEM, OXMAN SAID WE WOULD STUDY NEGOTIATION IDEA, BUT SPECULATED THAT IT COULD ULTIMATELY TAKE A FORM THAT CREATED UNCERTAINTY AND INHIBITED DEVELOPMENT. BEESELY EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS. MOST FELT USG HAS MOST EXPERTISE ON MATTER, AND BEESELY AS CHAIRMAN REQUESTED US TO COME TO GENEVA PREPARED TO DISCUSS PRECISE FIGURES WITH GROUP AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 00775 241600Z

OUTSET.

4. BEESELY SAID CANADA CONSIDERING PER CAPITA GNP FLOOR BELOW WHICH COASTAL STATE WOULD MAKE NO CONTRIBUTIONS OR LOWER CONTRIBUTIONS. SETHI WONDERED ABOUT SLIDING-SCALE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE WORKED OUT BY SELECT GROUP ALONG LINES UN CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE. IN LIGHT REFERENCES TO DEVELOPED-DEVELOPING DISTINCTIONS DURING

CONVERSATION, OXMAN SAID HE ANTICIPATED INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPOSE FORMULA MAKING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN CONTRIBUTION FORMULA, BUT FLEXIBILITY ON DISTRIBUTION FOR BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE ALSO NOTED PERSONALLY THAT PERHAPS TOO MUCH EMPHASIS HAD BEEN PLACED ON USE OF SEABED AUTHORITY, AND PERHAPS IT WOULD BE EASIER TO INCLUDE SOME COASTAL STATE FLEXIBILITY TO CHOOSE AMONG RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, IN PART AS AN ACCOMMODATION OF THE VIEWS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY CONTRIBUTORS AND OTHERS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT REVENUE-SHARING.

5. COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT COSTS ARE FACTORED INTO COMPUTATION OF WELL-HEAD VALUE, PARTICULARLY IN FRONTIER AREAS. THIS MAY HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON WILLINGNESS OF GROUP TO AGREE ON A PRECISE PERCENT OF WELLHEAD-VALUE IN TREATY. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME SUSPICION THAT US IS PLAYING DOG-IN-THE-MANGER, AND -- IN LIGHT FACT IT HAS ONLY SMALL MARGIN AREAS BEYOND 200 MILES IN CONTRAST TO REST OF GROUP -- MAY ULTIMATELY SUPPORT HIGHER MARGIN REVENUE-SHARING FIGURES THAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM LANDLOCKED GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP IN EXCHANGE FOR REDUCING PRESSURE ON THE US IN THE DEEP SEABEDS NEGOTIATION. FINALLY, ATTEMPTS BY SOME TO STALL THE ECONOMIC ZONE NEGOTIATIONS PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF THE MARGIN BEYOND CANNOT BE PRECLUDED.

BYRNE

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